

House State & Local Government Committee Amendment No. 1, as amended

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 328*

by deleting the preamble and resolving clauses as amended in their entirety and substituting instead the following new preamble and resolving clauses:

WHEREAS, the foundation of any government is law and morality; and

WHEREAS, governments rely on the virtue of their citizens to preserve domestic tranquillity; and

WHEREAS, the virtue and moral strength of the citizenry is the principle guarantee of domestic tranquillity; and

WHEREAS, moral decline in society constitutes a threat to the welfare of any state; and

WHEREAS, we have witnessed a breakdown in our own culture due to neglect and disregard of these basic standards; and

WHEREAS, a return to these standards would greatly benefit all people; and

WHEREAS, the 99th General Assembly continues to recognize the protection that the U.S. Constitution provides against the establishment of a state religion and affirms that constitutional principle as being consistent with the doctrines of grace and faith through a sincere belief in God rather than by the decree of law; and

WHEREAS, the 99th General Assembly also finds that the constitutional protection of the freedom to worship was never intended to be used to encourage a complete separation of the laws of our society from the moral principles upon which this nation and state were founded; and

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WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments, perhaps the most revered tenets of the Judeo-Christian faiths, are the foundation and basis of many of our laws and are clearly one of the greatest embodiments of the core moral principles upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, other teachings of the Judeo-Christian faiths and of other faiths reflect the moral principles upon which our nation was founded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the 99th General Assembly recognizes the historic and current importance of the Ten Commandments and the values embodied therein and encourages all citizens of Tennessee to recognize, honor and observe the fundamental tenets of their faith and further encourages all citizens to worship at the place of their own choosing toward the worthy ends of strengthening the moral fabric of our society, returning to the basic principles upon which our nation was founded, and giving our lives, our state and our nation a greater, higher purpose for existence.